

RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



July 12, 2023

ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved 3 board governance policies.
- Approved the 2023 RCRC revised operating budget.
- Approved, as amended, the establishment of a Property Insurance Ad Hoc Committee. Supervisor Kathleen Haff (Tuolumne) was added as a member.
- Approved the President and CEO compensation.



2023 Photo Contest Winner
Arlene Winfrey
Tulare County

The Travel Expense Claim can be accessed [here](#). Please complete and submit your claim to mchui@rcrcnet.org.

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, July 12th in Sacramento. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

President's Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a report on recent activities the organization is engaged in that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, introduced members that make up the legal team.

CONSENT AGENDA

RCRC Governance Policies Update - APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the adoption of policies on “Public Comments During ‘Brown Act’ Meetings of RCRC and Affiliated Entities,” “RCRC Member County concerns and Issues,” and “Time and Place of Meetings.” The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Proposed 2023 RCRC Revised Operating Budget - APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the 2023 RCRC revised operating budget, as proposed. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The revised budget can be accessed [here](#).

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Governmental Affairs Department's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Governor's Behavioral Health Modernization Proposal Overview

An overview of the Governor's behavioral health modernization proposal, Assembly Bill 531 (Irwin) and Senate Bill 326 (Eggman), was provided. RCRC key priorities include flexibility for rural

counties, equity in the withholding/sanction process, and fiscal protections. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

GUEST SPEAKER



California Environmental Protection Agency

Yana Garcia, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on CalEPA's initiatives, particularly on implementation of SB 1383, hazardous waste management, air quality in wildfire areas, and water rights.

State and Federal Legislative Update

An update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level was provided. At the state level, Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, focused on the State Budget, recent leadership changes, and the legislative calendar.

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an overview of the housing and homelessness budget and the AT HOME plan.

John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's sponsored bills relating to solid and organic waste recycling, and hazardous materials. Mr. Kennedy also discussed bills relating to energy, biomass energy facilities, and underground storage tanks.

At the federal level, Sheryl Cohen, Senior Partner, American Continental Group's (ACG), focused on RCRC's priorities, including the status of key legislation involving protection of California's giant sequoias, government employee housing, cannabis banking, rural hospitals, and disaster relief. Of note, Under Secretary Xochitl Torres-Small of the U.S. Department of Agriculture was confirmed on July 11th. ACG's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

The memo can be accessed [here](#). A listing of all state bills tracked can be accessed [here](#).

Water Issues Update

An update on current issues involving California water policy, including Governor Newsom's infrastructure proposal that now excludes the Delta Conveyance Project, and key water-related bills was provided. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

An update on efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies, including an update on the California Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, U.S. EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards requirements, and key state and federal wildfire and forest health-related bills was provided. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Establishment of Board of Directors Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Property Insurance – APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved, as amended, the creation of a Property Insurance Ad Hoc Committee. Chair, Doug Teeter, Butte County, recommended the addition of Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, to the membership roster. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The charter can be accessed [here](#).

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

ESJPA Chair, Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, and Staci Heaton, in her capacity as ESJPA Deputy Executive Director, provided an update on current activities. Of note, Kings County recently joined ESJPA, bringing the number of member counties to 27. Ms. Heaton highlighted the recent appointment of ESJPA Technical Advisory Group's Tedd Ward, Del Norte County, to serve on the Advisory Board for the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

California Public Utilities Commission Update

An update on the California Public Utilities Commission, including RCRC's engagement on the Center for Biological Diversity's petition on biomass facilities, electrical transmission facilities proceeding, Wildfire Mitigation Plans, and the Rule 20A program, was provided. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The list of RCRC open proceedings can be accessed [here](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Rural County Photo Contest – WINNER SELECTED

The RCRC Board of Directors voted on the three finalist photos, and the winner of RCRC's 7th Annual Rural County Photo Contest was chosen. The winning photo was submitted by Arlene Winfrey, a photo taken in Tulare County. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).



Grand Prize Winner



Second Place Winner

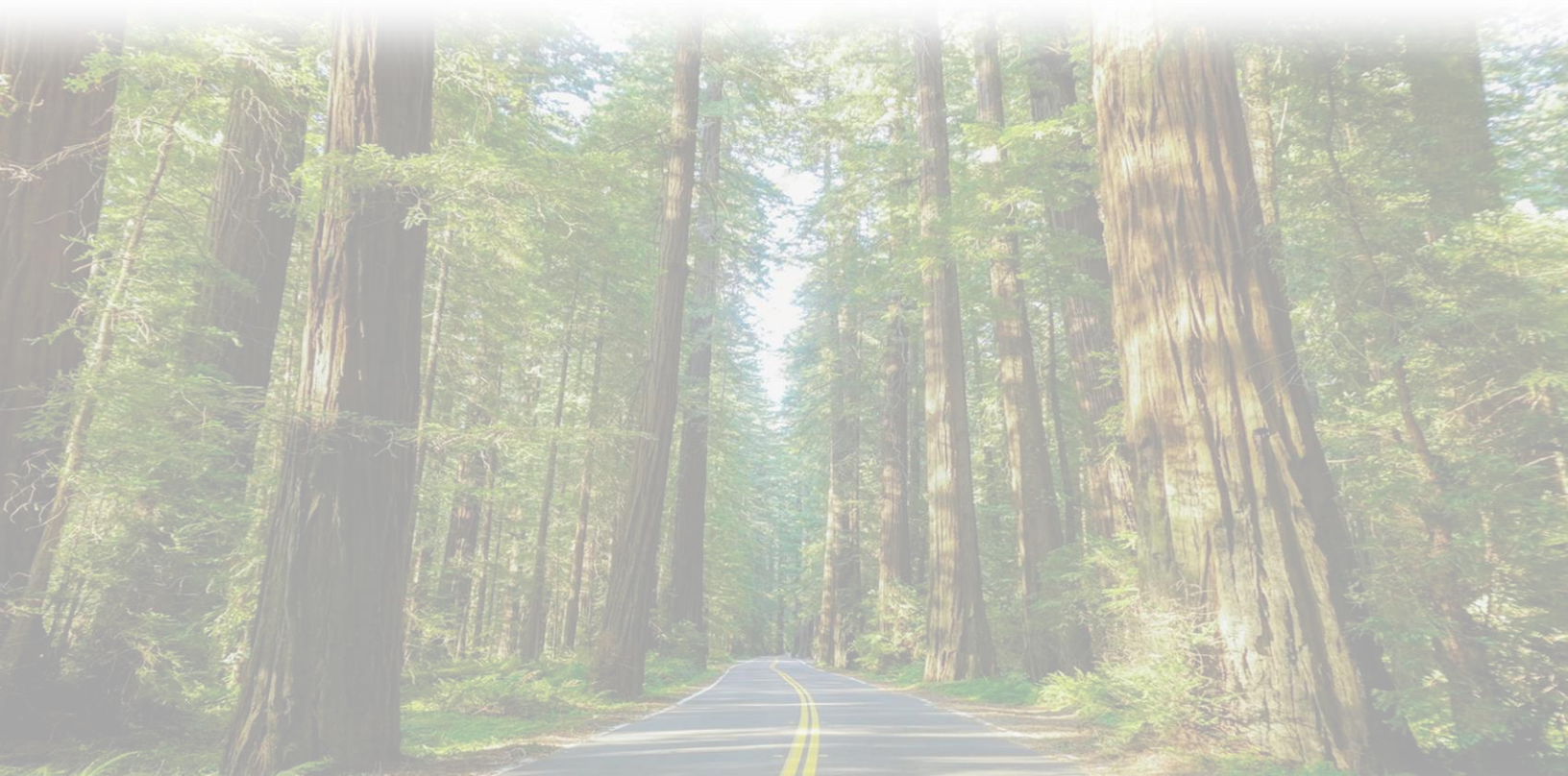


Third Place Winner

Annual Meeting – County Basket Auction & Drawing

Following Thursday night's dinner at RCRC's 2023 Annual Meeting, individual county baskets will be auctioned off during the county basket auction and drawing. Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, has selected the following charities to benefit from the proceeds: Chico Velo, Magalia Park, Honey Run Covered Bridge, Butte County Search and Rescue, Kirschner Animal Sanctuary, and Four Winds of Indian Education. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#). Please contact Eric Will at ewill@rcrcnet.org with any questions or need additional information.

The Executive Summary for this Board meeting can be accessed [here](#). Please refer to the RCRC Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The RCRC Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).





GSFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 12, 2023

The Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, July 12th in Sacramento. The GSFA Board of Directors reviewed a number of issues, and the following are highlights:

- The GSFA Board of Directors approved the 2023 GSFA revised operating budget, as proposed. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The revised budget can be accessed [here](#).
- Patrick Blacklock, Executive Director, provided an update and presented on the financial strategy for the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. (GSNR) project. Following GSNR President and CEO Greg Norton's announcement of full-time retirement in May, staff has worked on a transition and longer-term strategy for supporting GSNR. GSNR Vice President Kevin Cann retires from GSNR effective July 14, 2023.

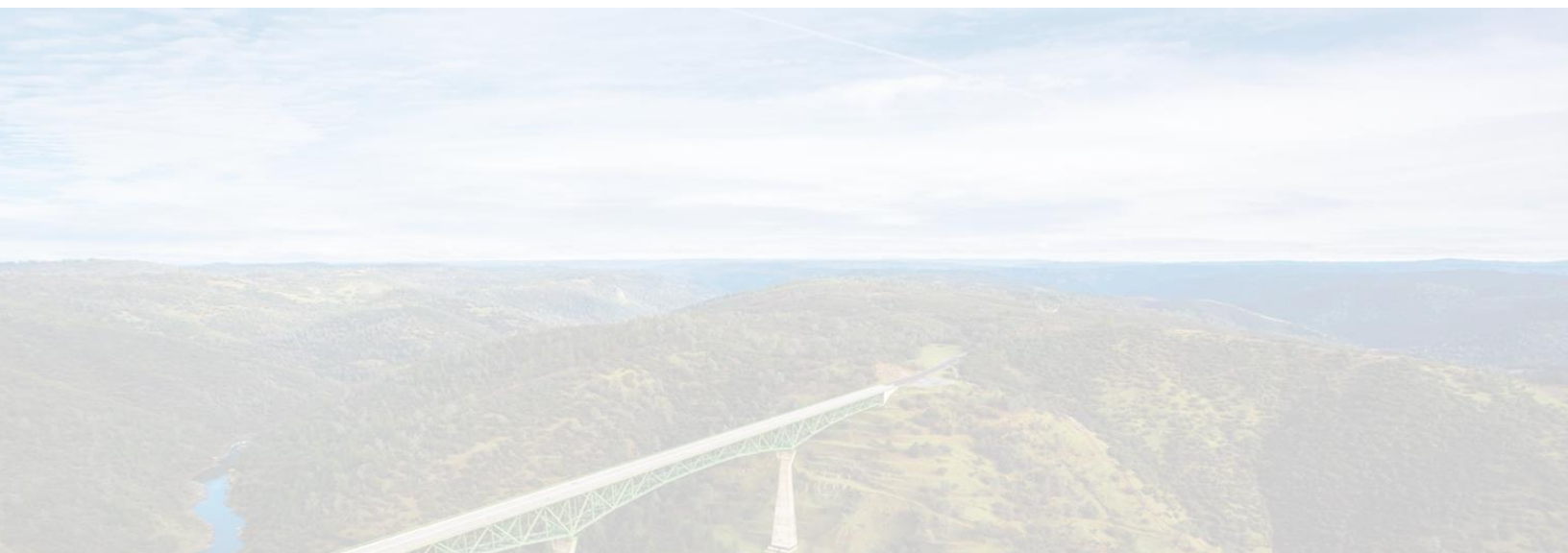
At this meeting, Mr. Blacklock provided an overview of the dual-pathway financial strategy proposal, along with an increase to GSNR's loan. The GSFA Board of Directors approved the dual-pathway financial strategy for the GSNR project, and further approved the proposed GSNR Resolution 23-12, thereby increasing the maximum amount of the GSNR loan by \$1.75 million in accordance with the strategy.

The memo can be accessed [here](#). The Resolution can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

- The GSFA Board of Directors approved GSFA Resolution 23-13, which conditionally approves GSFA's participation in the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Homebuyer Assistance Program. The approval further directs the GSFA Chair to sign the Resolution, upon determination by the Executive Director that GSFA is prepared to proceed with the program and specification of the program's "not to exceed" amount. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The Resolution can be accessed [here](#).

- Craig Ferguson, Deputy Director, provided a business development and program update, including GSFA's down payment assistance programs, energy programs, and success of GSFA's "Assist-to-Own" program. The memo can be accessed [here](#).
- Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, provided an update on recent economic development initiatives, particularly the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) Economic Development pilot program, and review of GSFA's grant protocol and grant progress report. Unfortunately, GSFA's application for the proposed Rural Grant Accelerator Program was not selected. Staff will continue to review alternative sources of funding on behalf of GSFA Member Counties. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Please refer to the GSFA Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The GSFA Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 12, 2023

QUALITY INTERNET FOR RURAL CALIFORNIA

The Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, July 12th in Sacramento. The GSCA Board of Directors reviewed a number of issues, and the following are highlights:

- The GSCA Board of Directors approved the 2023 GSCA revised operating budget, as proposed. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The revised budget can be accessed [here](#).
- Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate, provided a legislative and regulatory advocacy update regarding broadband budget deferrals in the State Budget, continued efforts to implement the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program, a status update on the Federal Funding Account and anticipated grant awards, and the California Advanced Services Fund's Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund proposed process. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#).
- Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, provided an overview of GSCA's approved program of work, including an update on the Local Agency Technical Assistance grant program and its progress, conceptual network design areas, as well as ongoing initiatives to identify and finance projects. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Please refer to the GSCA Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The GSCA Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).